Sectt. II-27—45,000—9-11-34.

Revenue (1935) Department.

Ms. SERIES.

G.O. No. 2619

DATED 4- M- 1935

[Despatch Abstract.]

Governor's Tour— (South Kanara)

Address of the S. Kanara D. B.

H. E. The Governor's reply.

Papers Recorded

To HIS EXCELLENCY

THE LORD ERSKINE, G.C.I.E.,

GOVERNOR OF MADRAS.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

We, the members of the District Board of South Kanara, beg to offer on behalf of ourselves and the people of this District a cordial welcome to Your Excellency and Lady Erskine, on this memorable occasion of your first official visit to this District.

2. To a casual visitor at this time of the year the outward appearance of this District may give an altogether misleading appearance of all being fairly well here. But the District is really poor with its peculiar difficulties of cultivation and heavy agricultural indebtedness. Continued depression for a number of years followed nevertheless by the recent enhancement of assessment and made still more insufferable by a fall in the price of rice and cocoanuts, the two staple commodities of the District, have impoverished the people almost beyond redemption.

3. Though the District gets over 120 inches of rain, the land cannot be considered fertile as owing to the ruggedness of its surface, its peculiar physical features and a narrow coast line, much of the torrential rain water flows down to the sea carrying with it rich manure. There are no minor irrigation works to conserve the rain water with the result that in the months of March, April and May, the land gets parched up, the scarcity of water is often experienced in several parts of the District and cattle go without

sufficient

fodder. This District has been unfortunate in not receiving any portion of the large grant given by Government for Minor Irrigation Works this year.

4. A large area of the District is covered by Reserved Forests on the outskirts of which hundreds of poverty-stricken villages nestle. These villages instead of deriving any substantial benefits from these forests are becoming depopulated and cultivated lands laid waste on account of the depredations of wild animals. Forest grievances have been the subject of repeated representations to Government from many years past with little or no redress. We look to Your Excellency to get our forest grievances examined and grant the necessary redress to the suffering people.

5. Under the shadow of the Western Ghauts and in the outskirts of the plentiful forest reserves lie a large number of villages which are the perpetual abode of malaria. Though we are grateful to Government for the free distribution of quinine which has checked the scourge to some extent, yet we are constrained to submit that it is equally necessary for successfully combating the disease, to extend medical relief to the worst malaria-ridden centres of the District and to start Anti-malarial work. We regret our District though the worst sufferer has been left out of the Government's Scheme for Anti-malarial work out of the Government of India's grant for rural uplift. Unless the Government come to the rescue of the Board in its present extremely straitened condition, the Board will not be able to take up this vital problem of Public Health in the near future.

6. This District, unlike east coast districts, abounds in hills and valleys and is cut up by rapid rivers and streams. Many places in this District are inaccessible during the monsoon months when the rivers and the streams are in high floods. Malabar and South Kanara on this account stand in need of more bridges than any part of the Presidency and yet this District has ~~been~~ to feel neglected in the distribution of Provincial subsidies. Lack of proper communications has been one of the long-standing grievances of the District. There is no railway line beyond Mangalore, and even the project to extend the railways to Udipi which was about to materialise four years ago seems to have been dropped for ever. Mr. Vipen's scheme contains proposals to bridge some of the rivers and streams of strategical importance. We respectfully urge that a larger provision should be made for road development and putting up more bridges in this district with due regard to the geographical conditions and development of commerce.

7. As a result of the Motor Vehicles Taxation Act this District has suffered a greater loss than perhaps any other part of the province for the reason that the Motor Transport in the District has developed to great extent. In the years 1932-33 and 1933-34 Government collected a sum of Rs 1,77,000 and Rs 1,35,000 respectively, while the amount which the Board received as compensation was Rs 35,000 in 1932-33 and Rs 30,653 in 1933-34 which is less than one-fourth of the provincial tax collected in the District. The amendment to Section 166 of the Madras Local Boards Act 1934 has further reduced our income by about

Rs 33.000 a year. We press our claims for an adequate enhancement of the compensation to the Board on this account so as to rehabilitate its attenuated resources

3. At a time when the finances of the Board have broken down seriously Government have thrown upon the Board several new burdens without any additions to its income. The inevitable result is that the Budget has seriously been effected. The expenditure under the Elementary Education has grown up heavily by the introduction of new scales of pay for teachers under the mandatory directions of Government. In 1934 on the wake of the abolition of the Taluk Boards we had to pay a sum of Rs 40,525 to the Elementary Education Fund in addition to the statutory contribution of Rs 28,975. The Elementary Education Budget for 1935-36 closes with a deficit of Rs 56,540. Unless Your Excellency's Government devise ways and means to stabilise the finances of the Board, the performance of the normal functions of the Board would eventually be paralysed. We appeal to Your Excellency to save the Board from this catastrophy.

9. More money is needed for our roads. There are several roads which have to be classified as II Class roads on account of their increased importance calling for a larger outlay on their maintenance. The two Trunk Roads, the Mangalore Mysore and the Mangalore-Mercara, which have to bear the brunt of motor traffic all through the year are not up to the trunk road standard. The condition

sympathetic consideration of some of the many grievances brought to your special notice on this occasion, Your Excellency will leave a lasting memorial of your visit in the minds of the people of this remote district of the province.

12. In conclusion, we once again offer Your Excellency and Lady Erskine our hearty greetings and cordially wish you both all health and happiness.

We beg to subscribe ourselves,

Your Excellency's devoted and loyal Servants,

Members of the District Board,
South Kanara.

COLLECTOR'S NOTE ON THE DISTRICT BOARD ADDRESS.

Para 3:- The latest information about the grant for Minor Irrigation Works in this district is the reply made in the Assembly last week which shows that 5 lakhs have been allotted to District Boards in Madras for Water-supply. It is presumed that the previous idea that the money would be allotted through the Board of Revenue for Irrigation works has been given up. It is true that the Board of Revenue did not accept any of my proposals for works to be carried out in villages. These proposals however did not deal with wells for drinking water.

Paras 4 and 5:- It is considered that the real cause for sub-ghaut villages being de-populated is Malaria and not the ravages of wild animals. The labour which might cultivate lands in these sub-ghaut willages prefers to go up over the ghauts and work in Coffee and tea estates in Coorg and Mysore.

Para 6:- A survey for the extension of the Railway line from Mangalore to Udipi was undertaken in 1928. There was much disputing as to the line which the Railway should take and 3 different routes were proposed. In view of the development of bus traffic it was thought in 1928 that the Railway line would not be a paying one.

Para 7:- The reasons why 75% of the proceeds of the Motor Vehicle Taxation go out of the district are as follows:-

(1) There were no tolls on roads where there were ferries. The ferry charges however remained although tolls have been abolished.

(2) The system of motor bus taxation in force in the district exempted motor buses from tolls.

For these two reasons the toll fees in the district were comparatively small and as the proceeds of the Taxation Act are distributed pro rata on the basis of the toll income of all districts, the amount which is allotted to South Kanara is very low compared with the effective motor traffic.

Para 8:- I have no means of checking the figures with regard to the Elementary Education Budget of the District Board.

Para 9:- It is a fact that the last 14 miles of the Trunk road carry the traffic of 3 main roads from Mysore and Coorg as well as all the road traffic from Kasaragod Taluk. In the last three years I have represented to Government repeatedly that this important stretch of t

road deserves assistance from theRoad Development Fund; since the District gets so little advantage from the railways.

Para 10:- I cannot speak about the grant paid by Government for Secondary schools.

Not yet answered

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL QUESTION No.101 - STARRED.

Mr. A. B. Shetty.

Will the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue be pleased to state--

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India grant of 50 lakhs for village works is proposed to be spent on irrigation works;

(b) whether in districts of Malabar and South Kanara there are any irrigation schemes ready for immediate execution; and

(c) whether in districts where no approved schemes are ready, Government propose to spend the money for any other purpose?

Public Works & Labour Department.

Answer.

(a) It is presumed that the Hon'ble Member is referring to the comprehensive three-year programme for an expenditure of Rs.50 lakhs on works to relieve unemployment among the rural population. No grant was made by the Government of India towards this scheme. The expenditure is to be met from loan funds or balances to the extent available. The entire amount is to be spent on irrigation works. An explanatory note on the scheme was placed before the Legislative Council in connection with the furtner demand under Grant VI - Irrigation on 22nd March 1935.

The Government of India gave a grant of Rs.14 lakhs for expenditure during 1935-36 on schemes of village uplift which include village roads, village water supply and sanitation anti-malarial measures etc. but not irrigation works.

(b) The Board of Revenue has reported that there are no suitable irrigation schemes coming within the scope of the comprehensive special programme of 50 lakhs in the Malabar and South Kanara districts.

(c) The diversion of any part of the Rs.50 lakhs to works other than irrigation would be opposed to the spirit and purpose of the special programme as outlined to the Government of India and Secretary of State and would be open to audit objection.

P. A. Menon 8-8
for Secretary to Government.

To

The Legislative Council Office

P.W.& L. U.O.No.2553 D/35-3
8th August 1935.

(The above answer has been approved by the Hon'ble Mr. C.A.Souter, C.S.I., I.C.S.,)

K.M.8/8.

Subject:- Governor's Tour (S. Kanara) -
Address from the S. Kanara District Board

Copy of D.O.No.1-305/35 dated the 16th September 1935 from the Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor to the Secretary to Government, Local Self Government Deptt.

Dear Russell,

I am sending herewith four copies each of the addresses to be presented by the Mangalore Municipal Council and the South Kanara District Board in October next, together with the Collector's notes. Would you kindly arrange to let me have short notes on the points raised and on the general administration of the Municipal Council and the District Board, so as to reach me not later than the 30th instant.

Yours etc.

This may be seen by P.... with reference to para 3 of the address

-2-
15/9/35 Cl. Graphs

19.9.35

ASST. SECRETARY TO GOVT. 4478 E 20 SEP 1935 REVENUE DEPARTMENT

Rev

Note 17

Para 2 of the address proposed to be presented by the members of the D.B. S. Kanara, to H.E. the Governor

To a casual visitor at this time of the year the outward appearance of this District may give an altogether misleading appearance of all being fairly well here. But the District is really poor with it peculiar difficulties of cultivation and heavy agricultural indebtedness. Continued depression for a number of years followed nevertheless by the recent enhancement of assessment and made still more insufferable by a fall in the price of rice and cocoanuts, the two staple commodities of the Distric have impoverished the people almost beyond redemptid

Collector's remarks.-

Nil.

Revenue Department.

Para 2 of the address.

No specific request is made in this para The reference at A in this para is to the recent orders passed on the proposals for the resettlement of the South Kanara District. The statement about the impoverished condition of the people was put forward also at the time of the resettlement. The Government considered that such vague statements unsupported as they were by any reliable evidence, were valueless, and that the S.S.O's report showed that there had been a distinct advance in the economic development of the area since the last settlement. In view of the present low level of prices, a scheme of increment remission has been

Go No 42 Rev 5-1-35 (H)

para 6 on p 2 ibid

para 7 on p 2 ibid

para 29 - 32 pp 10 - 11 ibid

provided under which the enhanced assessment (i.e., 12½% increase on wet and garden rates) will be introduced in stages. The Government have also sanctioned for the current fasli a general suspension of 2 annas in the rupee for garden lands and 1¾ annas in the rupee for wet lands. In the result the actual percentage enhancement which was collected during 1344 (last fasli) was in the South Kanara District was very small as shown below:--

Vide pp 6-7 ¶ (9)

	Resettlement enhancement.	Concessions granted this fasli.	Net enhancement.
Wet lands	12½%	11	+0⅛ %
Garden lands	12½%	12½% of resettlement rates.	-2 %

23.9.35

In regard to the fall in the prices of rice and coconuts referred to in the address, comparative statements of the retail prices of the important crops in the Presidency were prepared in connection with the land revenue concessions for fasli 1344. The figures for the South Kanara District under 'Paddy, 1st sort" and "Coconuts" have been brought up to date. It will be seen that paddy (prices have improved) and that the price of coconuts has gone up considerably. apparently since the beginning of the year

pp 11 + 17 ¶ (2) little ¶ (6)

R.S. 9.35

B 23.9.35

The resettlement was conducted last fasli after full consideration of all circumstances including the level of prices

It may further be remembered that the S. Kanara landholders moved on that the standard of living had risen considerably during the past 30 years and had reached a distinctly high level.

vide A on p2. Flag (H)

years

23.9.35

Para 3 of the address.

Though the District gets over 120 inches of rain, the land cannot be considered fertile a: owing to the ruggedness of its surface. its peculiar physical features and a narrow coast line, much of the torrential rain water flows down to the sea carrying with it rich manure. There are no minor irrigation works to conserve the rain water with the result that in the months of March, April and May, the land gets parched up, scarcity of water is often experienced in several parts of the District and cattle go without sufficient fodder. This District has been unfortunate in not receiving any portion of the large grant given by Government for Minor Irrigation works this year.

Collector's remarks.

The latest information about the grant for Minor Irrigation Works in this District is the reply made in the Assembly last week which shows that 5 lakhs have been allotted to District Boards in Madras for water supply. It is presumed that the previous idea that the money would be allotted through the Board of Revenue for Irrigation works has been given up. It is true that the Board of Revenue did not accept any of my proposals for works to be carried out in villages. These proposals however did not deal with wells for drinking water.

Revenue Department.

In G.O.No.904-I, dated 8-4-1935 the Govt. sanctioned an accelerated programme of minor irrigation works in charge of the Revenue Department and of minor works in charge of the P.W.D. on a three-year plan providing an ultimate expenditure of Rs.50 lakhs. The question of allotting any portion of this grant to minor irrigation works in the South Kanara District was under consideration in the P.W. & L. Department. It is understood from P.W. & L. that orders dropping the proposal to utilise any portion of the grant to that district are under issue.

The note on the address so far as it relates to M.I. works has to be prepared in P.W. & L.

1.VH 23/9/35
D.K. 28/9/35

Jose
24.9.35

PWR Deptt

When proposals for the distribution of the Rs 50 lakhs among the several districts were submitted by the Board of Revenue, it was reported that a comprehensive accelerated ~~programme~~ scheme did not include the districts of South Kanara Malabar & the Nilgiris as there were no minor works in these districts. The Collectors of these districts were at the same time requested by the Board of Revenue to suggest schemes, if any, for providing similar employment for the rural population. So far as South Kanara was concerned, the Coll^r suggested the following two schemes :-

(a) the Construction on a wide scale of

para 5, 15 (N)

—do—

papers not printed

skeleton dams with foot bridges on masonry piers in places where mamul dams are erected year after year by the ryots; and (b) the free supply of well boring sets to improve wells where irrigation of the second crop is done by lif

The Board of Revenue was of the opinion that neither of the schemes proposed by the Collector would answer the purpose of the special programme and that nothing need be done in the matter. In June 1935, the Collector enquired whether other and different schemes might be put forward pointing out that S. Kanara deserved a share if the idea was to distribute employment in a period of depression. He conceded that there was no programme of irrigation works for the district, and that an accelerated programme was therefore out of the question. The Board forwarded the Collector's letter to Government for orders adding that it would be unfair to deny the people of South Kanara (as well as Malabar and the Nilgiris) such relief as they could get from special expenditure on public works. The orders of Government on the Board's reference forwarding the Collector's letter will be found in G.O.No.2073 I dated 20-9-35. Briefly stated, the reasons for the exclusion of South Kanara Dt. (as well as the Nilgiris and Malabar Dts.) from the scope of the special programme are that there are no suitable works in these districts of the nature contemplated in G.O.No.904 I dated 8-4-35, that these districts are not in so great a need of the grant as less favoured districts, and that the diversion of any portion of the grant to works not satisfying the conditions laid down would not only be opposed to the spirit and purpose

of the programme as outlined to the Government of India and the Secretary of State when their sanction was asked for, but would also give rise to audit objection. The position was explained to Mr. R.M.Palat, M.L.C. (P.D.B., Malabar) in ~~xxxxxxxx~~ D.O.No.2149 D/35-3 dated 24-6-35, and also in the answers given to Question No.216 at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 10th August 1935. (Another question on the same subject by Mr. A.B.Shet of South Kanara has not yet been answered in Council. Copy of the Question and the answer sent to it is at Flag S)

D.V.K.
25-9-35.

P.A.M.
25/9.

W.T.S.
26/9.

Returned with thanks with an extract from His Excellency's reply to the South Kanara District Board's address.

P.S.G.
25/10/35.

recorded after perusal

to Keep these papers, this Dept need have no objection.

52-38-E

Rev. No 3673 D/35-1
30-10-35

Rev dept

Submitted for perusal
reply to the S. Kanara D. B.'s address
at S infra.

For orders whether the papers may be retained in Rev & recorded. (The subjects mainly relate to this Dept.)

1-11-35

Rev E & B

Go No MS 2619 D 4-11-35

To us

Please see the note of the L. Sg Dept on p 1 ante. One file has been sent to this Dept with reference to paras 2 & 3 of the address A note is submitted below. It may be sent to Pub & L. for amplification in the note on para 3 of the address of the Secretary to the P.S. of the H.H C3.

23.9.35

23/9/35

24.9.

Sgd.

Rev no 4478 E/35-1

24 & 35

Pub

(The pre note on para 3 has been amplified

25.9.35

ASST. SECRETARY TO GOVT.
24 SEP 1935
3673 D
PUBLIC WORKS AND LABOUR DEPT.

25-9

S WTS
25/9

C3 27.9.35.

P. S. G.

Cir 26/9

Cir slip
Rec'd 28/9

Extract from His Excellency's reply to the South Kanara District Board's address.

The picture of your district which you have presented to me is indeed a gloomy one and, after all tha I had heard and hoped to see of the famed luxuriance of the West Coast of this Presidency, I would fain believe that its colours are in reality less sombre than you have painted them. I am well aware that you have suffered severely from the fall in prices consequent on the genera economic depression of recent years, but I am assured that the standard of living in this district has none the less reached a high level, and I observe that of late the prices of your staple commodities show an upward trend. I do not think that you have any cause to complain of the manner in which the enhanced assessment has been applied by my Government, and I understand that this year you have every expectation of an exceptionally good harvest. The reason why it has not been found possible to allot any portion of the grant for Minor Irrigation Works to your district is that the grant is earmarked for the improvement of already existing works, and, as you yourselves inform me, no works of this nature are to be found here. I regret that you have thus been deprived of the benefit of the grant, but would at the same time suggest that there is food for consolation in a comparisc of South Kanara with other less favoured districts where water conservancy works indeed exist but where there is all too seldom any water to conserve.